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Report on the 2003 Budget Consultation Process

Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

November 14, 2002

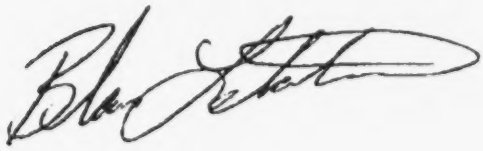
To the Honourable,
The Legislative Assembly of the
Province of British Columbia
Victoria, British Columbia

Honourable Members:

I have the honour to present herewith the *First Report* of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services for the Third Session of the Thirty-Seventh Parliament.

The *First Report* covers the work of the Committee on the matter of the 2003 Budget Consultation Process.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee.



Mr. Blair Lekstrom, MLA
Chair

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Blair Lekstrom, MLA	Chair	Peace River South
Ida Chong, MLA	Deputy Chair	Oak Bay-Gordon Head
Harry Bloy, MLA		Burquitlam
Jeff Bray, MLA		Victoria-Beacon Hill
Arnie Hamilton, MLA		Esquimalt-Metchosin
Brian Kerr, MLA		Malahat-Juan de Fuca
Joy MacPhail, MLA		Vancouver-Hastings
Lorne Mayencourt, MLA		Vancouver-Burrard
Sheila Orr, MLA		Victoria-Hillside
Ralph Sultan, MLA		West Vancouver-Capilano
Patrick Wong, MLA		Vancouver-Kensington

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Craig James, Clerk of Committees and Clerk Assistant

COMMITTEE RESEARCHERS

Josie Schofield, Research Analyst

Audrey Chan, Assistant Researcher

TERMS OF REFERENCE

On May 30, 2002, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services was empowered to examine, inquire into and make recommendations with respect to the pre-budget consultation report prepared by the Minister of Finance in accordance with section 2 of the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* and, in particular, to:

1. Conduct public consultations across British Columbia on proposals and recommendations regarding the provincial budget and fiscal policy for the coming fiscal year by any means the committee considers appropriate, including but not limited to public meetings, telephone and electronic means;

2. Prepare a report no later than November 15, 2002 on the results of those consultations.

In addition to the powers previously conferred upon the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, the committee shall be empowered:

(a) to appoint of their number one or more subcommittees and refer to such subcommittees any of the matters referred to the committee;

(b) to sit during a period in which the House is adjourned and during any sitting of the House;

(c) to adjourn from place to place as may be convenient; and

(d) to retain personnel as required to assist the committee;

and shall report to the House as soon as possible, or following any adjournment or at the next following session, as the case may be, to deposit the original of its reports with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly during a period of adjournment and upon resumption of the sittings of the House, the Chair shall present all reports to the Legislative Assembly.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee would like to thank all the citizens of British Columbia who took the time from their busy lives to participate in the 2003 Budget consultation process. We appreciated the effort the public made to study the pre-budget briefing materials, to attend and listen to the testimony, and to air their views. The Committee was also continually impressed by the depth and quality of the oral and written submissions.

Our mandate was to listen to what British Columbians had to say about the government's fiscal plan for the next three years. For us, the process of hearing and reading what people had to say has been an enjoyable and valuable learning experience.

The unsung heroes of the Committee's public hearing process included the staff of Hansard Services who produce the transcripts of all the Committee's meetings. We would like to thank in particular the seven console operators who traveled with us to the 13 public hearings — Catherine Schaefer, Marilyn Pollard, Jane Berry, Lisa Coburn, Wendy Collison, Amanda Heffelfinger and Virginia Garrow.

The Committee also wishes to give a huge thanks to the staff in the Office of the Clerk of Committees. Mary Newell and Pamela Grant did an unbelievably good job of organizing our hectic tour across the province. Last, but certainly not least, we would like to acknowledge the contributions of Josie Schofield and Audrey Chan, who were involved throughout all stages of the Committee's work and who provided invaluable administrative and research support.

INTRODUCTION

The report on the 2003 Budget consultation process is divided into four parts. It begins with a summary of the consultation process. The next section provides a summary of the public's response to the fiscal plan. Then, the focus shifts to the public's priorities for the next three budgets and their ideas about how to generate revenue. The final section of the report contains the Finance Committee's general conclusions and recommendations.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION PROCESS

Since 2000 the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services has conducted provincewide pre-budget consultations on an annual basis in accordance with the requirements of the original and amended *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act.*

On May 30, 2002 the all-party Finance Committee was instructed by the House to conduct public consultations across British Columbia with respect to the 2003 Budget, and to report on the consultation process by November 15, 2002. During the fall, we held a series of meetings to fulfil our mandate, following the schedule contained in Appendix 1.

On September 13, 2002 the Minister of Finance formally presented the *Budget 2003 Consultation Paper* to the Committee. After reviewing the results of the first quarter of the current fiscal year, Minister Gary Collins asked the Committee to seek public input on what changes British Columbians would make in the next two budgets, in terms of program priorities, within the overall spending targets set out in the government's current three-year fiscal plan. He also wanted to hear the public's views on what the government's fiscal priorities should be in 2005/06, when a modest surplus is anticipated.

To solicit public input, the Finance Committee decided to visit 13 different communities across the province. Between September 19 and October 17, 2002, we held public hearings in the following communities: Victoria and Campbell River on the Island; Vancouver, North Vancouver, Richmond and Abbotsford in the lower mainland; Kelowna and Kamloops in the interior; Kimberley and Nelson in the Kootenays; and Fort St. John, Prince George and Smithers in the north. The Committee also invited British Columbians who were unable to attend the hearings to submit written briefs by October 25, 2002.

During the pre-budget consultation process, the Committee heard from 303 individuals and organizations, which represented local governments, key sectors of the BC economy, stakeholders in the education and health sectors, as well as community groups and concerned citizens. In total, 214 oral presentations were made at the 13 public hearings, and 89 written submissions were sent directly to the Office of the Clerk of Committees.

A list of the organizations that participated in the 2003 Budget consultation process and the complete witness list are included as appendices at the end of this report. Transcripts of the public hearings and an electronic copy of this report are available on the Internet at: www.legis.gov.bc.ca/cmt.

THE PUBLIC'S RESPONSE TO THE FISCAL PLAN

During the consultation process, the Committee received a lot of input from the public on the performance of the government over the past year, and on the financial direction the province is taking for the foreseeable future. Other topics covered ranged from "hot-button" provincial issues—such as the softwood lumber dispute, the 2010 Winter Olympic bid and the Kyoto accord on climate change —to industry concerns about specific ministry policies, through to purely local issues.

The Committee has found it a daunting task to synthesize the diversity of opinion we heard and read during the past two months, and to capture the presenters' passion and the quality of the arguments presented. Nonetheless, we think it is important to convey to our colleagues in the House, and the public at large, the memorable messages we received from British Columbians who participated in the pre-budget consultation process.

Based on the testimony we have heard and read, we have identified four key themes that are designed to communicate the public's response to the existing fiscal plan:

THEME 1: STAY THE COURSE ON BALANCING THE BUDGET BY 2004/05

The business community and a lot of concerned citizens clearly stated that they wanted government to stay the course on balancing the budget and getting its fiscal house in order. The Committee heard this message time and time again at the public hearings. Generally speaking, people thought that government has chosen the right track to achieve its goals of restoring sound fiscal management and revitalizing the economy. At the same time they acknowledged that the government would continue to have to make difficult decisions concerning spending priorities in order to balance the province's books by 2004/05, and to address the need for additional funding to soften the impact of economic uncertainty and government restructuring. Some of their comments were:

> *"In terms of our specific recommendations, CGA-BC believes that it is critical that the government stays the course in its approach to balancing the budget and restoring our competitive position."* (Certified General Accountants of BC)

> *"I hope this government understands how important it is to manage my money properly. Like everyone else, I want the best infrastructure, the best health care and the best social services, but I don't want to have those on the backs of my kids who will have to pay for them. Balancing the budget and then paying down the debt must be this government's number one priority."* (Terry Lalari)

> *"The BC Real Estate Association and the Victoria Real Estate Board support the target of balancing the budget by 2004/05. We also urge the government to continue to monitor economic conditions carefully, remaining flexible in its operation, and including a forecast allowance in each provincial budget."* (BCREA and VREB)

"The Business Council of BC applauds the government for setting firm three-year spending targets for all ministries, and for providing three-year funding commitments to health care and educational institutions. The Business Council recognizes, though, that the spending restraint program is imposing hardship on some communities, as certain government offices and courthouses close. It is important that the reorganization of government infrastructure and services be done in an even-handed way that does not place an undue share of the burden on smaller communities and less urbanized areas of the province." (BC Business Council)

THEME 2: COMMUNICATE YOUR VISION AND PLAN MORE EFFECTIVELY TO THE PUBLIC

What also came across was the message that government isn't doing a good enough job of communicating its long-term economic vision, or its overall economic plan. People also wanted more information about why the government is reducing the size of the public sector, the reasons for the decision to close one local courthouse or hospital rather than another, and the options considered before these types of decisions were made. Chambers of commerce across the province stressed both these points:

"We would like to reiterate our recommendation to develop and publicize an economic plan. It would help direct future spending priorities. Most importantly, it would ensure that British Columbia regain its stature as the best place to invest in Canada. We are convinced we are on the right track. Let's just ensure we have a map." (BC Chamber of Commerce)

"One of the most frustrating aspects has been the government's lack of communication with the taxpayers, which is creating uncertainty and ultimately fear. The perception is that the changes and cuts are being made out of desperation to meet the bottom line rather than as the solution for economic recovery. We recommend that in future changes, the provincial government publicly disclose the need for cuts and the reasons used to determine where cuts occur and why." (Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce)

THEME 3: ENSURE THAT GOVERNMENT POLICIES FOSTER ECONOMIC GROWTH

Several presenters told the Committee that they've heard and support the government's message that BC is open for business. However, in their encounters with certain ministries, they were finding that the government's message has not been communicated clearly enough to the field offices. At the Campbell River hearing, for example, two presenters commented on the local roadblocks faced by industry:

"My first recommendation on what should be done to make your three-year fiscal plan work is to finish your job on reduction and redirection of the public service. Your direction and intentions are not being carried out and are not showing up in the field. The aquaculture industry, the forest industry, and even local communities like ours, face daily frustrations from this problem." (Mayor Russ Hellberg, District of Port Hardy)

"We hear the government calling for investment by declaring that red tape and the general regulatory burden are being cut and streamlined. These are good messages and encouraging signs, yet there is much evidence to suggest — in the mining industry at least — that the promised changes have yet to take place on the front lines. There is a prevailing notion at the local level that all parts of government are not pulling in the direction articulated by elected officials and ministers." (Boliden-Westmin Canada Ltd.)

Other people suggested that senior policy-makers inside the bureaucracy also needed to know that BC is open for business. They cited numerous examples of policies or situations that are inhibiting a more rapid economic recovery. These include:

- transportation policy regarding upgrading of private roads, and highway signage policy regarding the advertising of local museums;
- delays in resolving land use conflicts and approving permits for minerals exploration;
- delays in reducing red tape;
- legislative inaction with respect to self-regulation of the auto industry;
- slow delivery of emergency relief to tackle the mountain pine beetle epidemic; and
- uncertainty over the potential impact of the Community Charter.

THEME 4: ADDRESS THE GROWING GAP BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN BC

The Committee was also struck forcibly by the public's message that the government has to address the growing gap between rural BC and the urban areas of the province. At the hearings held outside the major urban centres, we often heard that the impact of government restructuring is more painful for small towns and outlying rural areas than for the larger urban centres of the province. Many presenters living in rural BC — whether on Vancouver Island, in the interior, the East Kootenay region or in the north — said that while they supported the idea of a balanced budget, the closure of courthouses, hospitals and ministry offices was causing economic hardship for their communities. They pointed out that the loss of, say, 20 government jobs in a community of 3,000 people has a more significant impact than the loss of 200 positions in a big city like Vancouver.

Cuts to services like child care and legal aid were also perceived to have a more severe impact on small towns in rural BC than in metropolitan areas. People living in rural communities told the Committee that they realized they could never have the range of services that are available in Vancouver and Victoria, but they found it difficult to accept the cutbacks in the few support services they have. For example, in the West Kootenay region alone, there was uncertainty about the funding for six child care centres and other services for children and families. Other people stressed the importance of the child care subsidy for families earning low wages. They included an accountant in Campbell River who demonstrated that single parents working full-time and earning even the minimum training wage could remain in the labour force, so long as they received government assistance in the form of child tax credits and a child care subsidy.

To assist rural BC during the difficult transition period, some presenters in Nelson and Smithers suggested that the government could look at decentralizing some central ministry operations — particularly in the Ministry of Energy and Mines and the Ministry of Forests, which already conduct

the bulk of their work outside the metropolitan areas. The Prince Rupert Economic Development Commission, for example, argued that decentralization made good business sense, as public sector services are counter-cyclical. When the commodity cycle is at its lowest, these services keep communities balanced, and they also provide solid support in boom times.

Other witnesses expressed the desire for the East Kootenays and the northwest to have the type of fair-share agreement the Peace region has with respect to the oil and gas industry. They claimed that as their resource-rich regions generate much of the province's export revenue, they should have the capacity to retain some of that wealth for reinvestment in local physical and social infrastructure, rather than waiting year after year for disbursements to come back from Victoria. Revenue sharing, or at least some kind of assistance, would enable wealth-generating rural communities to take care of their own local economies, in the view of some presenters:

> *"We ask the government to begin working on developing programs and revenue-sharing options and entering into agreements with rural BC to give us the ability to improve our own economic performance."* (Cranbrook and District Chamber of Commerce)

> *"The District of Houston and other resource communities in the north are seeking budgetary consideration of a fair-share type of arrangement to share revenues from the local forest resources so that the communities may bolster their road maintenance and other infrastructure."* (Mayor Tom Euverman)

> *"We believe that we're a revenue-generating community, that we provide resources that keep our province going and that all BC communities should be treated equally. As citizens of this province, we believe the rural areas should have access to services like those in the lower mainland, and we'd ask that our message be carried back to cabinet."* (Concerned Citizens of the North Peace)

THE PUBLIC'S PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT THREE BUDGETS

In addition to including an overview of the fiscal plan, the *Budget 2003 Consultation Paper* asked British Columbians for their views on budget priorities for the next three fiscal years. The paper poses three specific questions for the public to answer. Question 1 asked people to suggest small changes to fine-tune program spending in the next two budgets, whereas questions 2 and 3 asked them to identify what the government's fiscal priorities should be for any available funds in 2005/06 and how they would allocate the anticipated modest surplus.

The Committee thinks it is necessary to note that only a minority of the 300-plus witnesses responded directly to the Finance ministry's questions in the course of their testimony. With the benefit of hindsight, we think the narrow scope of question 1, which asked people to move small amounts of money from one priority area to another, made it difficult for them to answer. The time frame of questions 2 and 3 — three years down the road — also posed a problem for some.

The public, however, was not shy about telling us what their budget priorities are for the next three fiscal years. Broadly stated, education, health care and roads ranked first for additional program spending now and in the future. Tax reform and debt reduction were also high on the list of things people want government to do, once the budget is balanced. The public's fiscal priorities for the next three budgets are now outlined in themes 5 to 8:

THEME 5: CONTINUE TO PUT EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE FIRST IN LINE FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING

The Committee was struck by the fact that there was more consensus among the witnesses about the need to allocate additional funding to the public education system than to health care. Besides stakeholders in the education sector, the business community, labour unions and concerned citizens all agreed that education is an essential service the government should provide, and an area where fiscal restraint is having a serious impact. They also said that investment in public education was the key to economic growth. In terms of program spending, their immediate and future budget priorities were clearly the K-to-12 system and skills training.

SCHOOLS:

Regarding K-to12 education, the Committee heard from school trustees and teachers about their struggles to comply with the new funding formula laid out in the Ministry of Education's three-year service plan. Rural schools in the Prince George area and in the Peace region felt that their unique needs were not being recognized in this formula, which ties funding to student enrolment. For example, the Peace River North Teachers' Association pointed out that the formula does not take into account the increased enrolment that happens after September 30, when the freeze-up occurs and work resumes in the oil patch, or the exodus of families following break-up.

In urban areas, a major concern of educators and parents was the uncertainty surrounding next year's funding for school-based programs provided by the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

Currently the ministry is providing annual funding to local school districts for such programs as community schools, inner-city schools, school meals and child and youth care workers. Both concerned parents and the staff of community schools, requested that these school-based programs be funded in the next budget at least at the same level as 2002/03, and that the government consider funding them on an ongoing basis.

Skills Training:

The urgent need for skills training was another consistent message we heard. Several presentations by the business community urged the government to progress quickly on the trades and apprenticeship side in order to meet employers' future labour requirements. The Canadian Home Builders' Association, though, pointed out that the housing industry is already facing a serious skilled trades shortage, especially framers. Other gaps identified by presenters at the Abbotsford hearing included the immediate need for a good apprenticeship system to train electricians, plumbers and carpenters, and a shortage of technicians to fill positions in the aerospace retrofit and maintenance industry.

Labour shortages were also a problem in rural BC. In Fort St. John, for example, the local chamber of commerce made a strong pitch for locating the new tech schools in the north country, so that the aboriginal population and other residents could be educated in their own backyard to work in the resource sector.

Post-secondary education:

Some key stakeholders supported the government's fiscal initiatives in post-secondary education. For example, representatives of the province's colleges endorsed the recent decision of government to invest in capital projects at selected institutions. The University Presidents' Council of BC and some individual students were also positive about the lifting of the tuition freeze. However, student organizations and some labour unions disagreed with this decision and advocated reducing tuition fees.

In terms of spending priorities, the major message from the public post-secondary institutions was the need for more operational funding to meet the increasing demand for access to colleges and universities. The province's universities also requested capital spending to upgrade the physical infrastructure, and they made a plea for more investment in research and development.

Health care:

Regarding health care, there was broad-based support for the government's commitment to maintain its current level of funding. Generally speaking, the public was in favour of targeting additional funding in the 2003 Budget to relieve the current financial stresses facing local hospitals in the West Kootenays and other parts of rural BC, and the under-funding of the northern health authority, in particular. Some presenters, though, were hesitant to endorse an increase in the ministry spending targets once the budget is balanced. The Vancouver Board of Trade, for example, stated that no more money should be allocated to health care in the longer term, without significant improvements

in productivity and management processes and an improved hybrid public-private sector approach to the provision of facilities and services.

Another major concern was the perception that health care costs were being offloaded on to retirees/seniors in the form of cuts to home care support, increases in MSP premiums and Pharmacare fees, and the over-prescribing of drugs. Concerned citizens and community groups made several pleas for the government to at least maintain, if not expand, health care facilities and services for seniors, as well as for other vulnerable groups. Their specific requests for additional funding in the 2003 Budget included:

- Allocate more funding for senior care, offer tax incentives for long-term care insurance, and streamline the funding for health and housing agencies providing assisted living services.
- Allocate resources to provide health services for the drug addicts, the mentally ill and the many disadvantaged who congregate in Vancouver's urban core.
- Allocate $300 million over the next three years towards community support and rehab services for people with acquired brain injury.
- Protect the respite services provided for parents of special needs children at the Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health in Victoria.
- Restore routine eye exams for those aged 19 to 64 who are on income assistance, a service that costs about $1 million a year.

THEME 6: INVEST IN TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

Investment in transportation infrastructure to give business a competitive edge was another recurring theme at all the public hearings. Presenters clearly identified this as their top priority for capital spending and perceived this type of expenditure as a way they could enhance business activity in their own communities. The City of Fort St. John, for example, urged the government to focus whatever surplus resources are available on transportation infrastructure — whether that's the vital link provided by regional airports, BC Rail, urban highways or rural road systems.

Investment in roads was identified as a high priority in all regions of the province. Indeed, some witnesses firmly believed that the fiscal recovery is put at risk, due to the lack of highway capacity as the economy expands. They saw the construction and upgrading of the province's highway system as the key to economic development in all parts of the province, to enable goods and services to move quickly and efficiently from region to region. However, their perception was that the provincial government has tended to focus for too long on highway maintenance rather than making major investments in the construction and upgrading of roads.

Being aware of the fiscal constraints facing the province, the transportation committee of the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce proposed that one way to finance the investment in roads would be for the government to lobby Ottawa for a greater share of the road fuel tax revenues it collects from BC drivers. Its members told the Committee that the lower mainland pays the highest fuel tax in Canada, with the federal government collecting $1.3 billion in road fuel tax revenues in BC during the 1995-98 period but only investing $127 million — less than 10 percent — back into the

province's roads. They urged the government to take a strong and loud leadership role and keep the revenue from the excise tax on fuel for BC roads. The Nelson Chamber of Commerce also proposed that the province target the federal portion of the excise tax into building and maintaining the highway system, and that the government explore using 50 percent of the vehicle licensing fee and adding, say, a surcharge of $25 to the auto insurance premium. This way $100 million would be available for infrastructure improvements each year.

Within the different regions, presenters targeted the following transportation infrastructure projects as priorities for government assistance:

- construction and upgrading of roads in the north;
- expansion of the Cranbrook airport in the East Kootenays;
- upgrading of the Kamloops airport;
- development of the Port of Prince Rupert as a container port in the northwest; and
- constructing another Fraser River crossing and upgrading the Albion ferry and the Mount Lehman overpass in the Fraser Valley.

THEME 7: CONTINUE TO REFORM THE TAX SYSTEM TO HELP REVITALIZE THE ECONOMY

Almost without exception, representatives of the business community welcomed the corporate income tax cuts, the repeal of the corporate capital tax, the elimination of the PST on machinery and equipment, and the reduction in the top marginal income tax rate. However, they identified the need to make BC's tax system more competitive with other jurisdictions. To level the playing field with Alberta, for example, presenters in the East Kootenays and the Peace region urged the government to consider adopting a differential PST rate for the border towns of BC to stem the estimated loss of approximately $230 million in retail revenue each year to Alberta.

Another concern was that if Alberta continued its aggressive tax reduction program, British Columbia could perhaps fall behind in the future unless the Ministry of Finance announced what the future tax rates would be here in BC. The BC Institute of Chartered Accountants, for example, suggested that the 2003 Budget provide specific year-by-year tax rates that provide certainty for investors comparing British Columbia to other jurisdictions.

The province's chartered accountants also proposed two other tax policy changes in the next budget to assist business: a gradual reduction of the general corporate income tax rate to 8 percent, and a gradual increase of the small business threshold from $300,000 to $400,000. They also suggested harmonizing the federal GST and the PST in the 2003 Budget to reduce compliance and administrative costs for business, and to increase PST revenue currently lost on e-commerce sales. The BC Agriculture Council also favoured harmonization, stating that the adoption of the GST farm input tax credit system would realize significant cost savings.

Other presenters also found complying with the PST rules required too much paperwork and imposed extra costs. The owner of a Victoria-based company, for example, described the complexity of the PST regulations as an "onerous burden to BC business," pointing out that the GST collects

roughly the same amount of tax but requires one-tenth the effort for a business to administer. His request was for concise rules and simple administration.

The Committee also heard some concerns, especially from small and medium-sized businesses, about the negative impact of the 0.5 percent increase in the provincial sales tax. For example, representatives of the retail sector were worried about its impact on consumer spending and called on the government to reduce the PST when the deficit has been eliminated.

Requests for PST exemptions on port terminals and for the film industry were also made to increase the competitiveness of these sectors. In addition, the Business Council of BC proposed exempting more categories of business inputs from the 7.5 percent sales tax, by extending the existing exemption to also include energy, building materials and legal services. The Council also called for the phasing out of the provincial capital tax on financial institutions in BC.

THEME 8: PAY DOWN THE DEBT

Another clear message from the public was the need for the government to start planning how it proposes to pay down the debt so as not to saddle future generations with debt-servicing costs. Several witnesses thought it was important for the government to announce its long-term debt management plan in the next two provincial budgets, with measurable targets identified in 2005/06. This plan would be a signal to investors outside British Columbia that they would not be stuck with a large amount of future taxes to reduce the debt, if they invested here.

In terms of the proportion of funds to be allocated for debt reduction, once there is a modest surplus in 2005/06, the public proposed percentages ranging from zero right through to 100 percent. While they disagreed over the proportions, there was general agreement among concerned taxpayers and owners of small and medium-sized businesses on the desirability of targeting some funds in 2005/06 for debt reduction, as the following quotes show:

> *"We now have a provincial debt of $36 billion, and a huge amount of our tax dollars has to be spent on interest alone. Not only must you produce a budget that's sustainable, but debt-servicing costs must continue to spiral downward so that my children will be able to live in BC without spending all of their earnings on taxes."* (Jim Krauss)

> *"Once the BC government balances the budget in 2004/05, it then needs to go down the long road of reducing debt. I urge the government not to spend on the backs of future generations."* (BC3P Consulting)

> *"We would encourage you to make debt reduction a high priority. There is nothing more debilitating to government, business or to individuals than debt. It limits growth today and diminishes future potential."* (Aquila Networks Canada Ltd.)

THE PUBLIC'S IDEAS ON HOW TO GENERATE REVENUE

The need for the government to focus more on revenue generation was another very clear message we heard at the hearings. The public's ideas are summarized under themes 9 and 10.

THEME 9: BE CREATIVE ABOUT GENERATING REVENUE VIA ECONOMIC GROWTH

Every community we visited wanted to be part of revitalizing the economy. People pointed to the obvious advantage of achieving a balanced budget through revenue enhancement rather than by simply cutting program spending. Despite this, they perceived that the focus of government has been more on cutting jobs and services and allocating expenditures, rather than concentrating on building the economy — a focus that would generate the revenues required to fund the services desired by British Columbians. In fact, the Business Council of BC urged the Committee to make economic growth "the centrepiece" of our report to government.

The public had a lot of different ideas about how to promote economic development and generate additional tax revenue.

With regard to **marketing**, people made the following suggestions:

- Adopt a Buy BC policy for hi-tech products developed locally.
- Market the north of BC as a world-class tourist destination
- Match the wine industry's investment of $500,000 a year for market development and the promotion of wine industry tourism.
- Promote the province as a can-do place by working with local market experts.
- Sell BC as a desirable location for the film industry, by restoring the budget of the BC Film Commission and its mandate as an international marketing body, by continuing to fund regional film commissions and by expanding regional tax incentives to create jobs.

To expand the **resource sector** of the provincial economy, some ideas were:

- Adopt the five-point plan of the mining industry and spend more money on minerals exploration to improve the competitiveness of this sector.
- Collaborate with the upstream oil and gas industry to find ways to encourage and fast-track exploration for existing and new basins.
- Mobilize companies that have excess manufacturing capacity to become involved in the oil and gas industry, and develop a framework for first nations participation in energy exploration and development.
- Develop a land-leasing program to encourage the establishment of wind-generated power on the North Island.
- Expedite shellfish aquaculture to create jobs.
- Increase the number and size of woodlots in rural BC.

To attract more **investment**, the business community put forward such ideas as:

- Adopt a sectoral approach to regulatory reform that would identify on an industry basis the three or four most important regulatory impediments to new investment and the expansion of existing businesses.
- Provide speedy access to venture capital for small hi-tech companies.
- Redirect small business venture capital programs into resource-based regions.
- Use flow-through shares as drivers for public-private partnerships for infrastructure projects and to encourage other types of investments.

THEME 10: LOBBY OTTAWA FOR MORE DOLLARS

The Committee heard quite often throughout the public hearing process that people wanted the government to lobby the federal government for more health care dollars, and for a more equitable share of the large sums generated by the federal excise tax on gasoline. Requests were also made for the province itself to contribute funds as a partner in cost-shared initiatives or P3-type projects, in order to leverage additional monies for the agricultural industry, the high tech sector and for the indirect costs of university-based research.

Simply improving dialogue and relations with Ottawa would also have other spin-off benefits for the provincial economy. As one local mayor pointed out, the federal government holds the keys to the expansion of BC's aquaculture industry and the establishment of an offshore oil and gas industry, and to resolving the softwood lumber dispute, all of which are critical for the province's economic recovery.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

After due consideration, the Committee believes the government should stay the course and continue with its plan to balance the budget by 2004/05. We recognize that budget-making involves making difficult choices at the best of times, and that the financial decisions about any additional spending in the next two budgets will have to be made within the constraints of the existing fiscal plan and the ministry spending targets.

Nonetheless, based on the public's compelling testimony, we think some fine-tuning is needed in the next two budgets to assist British Columbians living in rural resource-dependent communities, to assist rural and urban schools adjust to the new funding arrangements for K-to-12 education, to secure investment for improving the province's transportation infrastructure, and to help the working poor with their child care costs. Therefore we recommend:

1. That the government provide some form of assistance in the 2003 Budget to resource-dependent rural communities, affected by government restructuring and the softwood lumber dispute, during the difficult transition period.

   The Committee thinks the growing gap between rural British Columbia and the large urban centres has to be addressed now. The situation is becoming critical for resource-dependent communities hit hard by the combined impact of the government's restraint program and the current economic uncertainty in forestry and the mining sector.

2. That the government give serious consideration to providing additional transitional funding for the K-to-12 education system.

   During the public hearings, the Committee was struck forcibly by how much financial pressure educators working in the K-to-12 system seemed to be experiencing as they try to adjust to the new funding formula for school districts. We think the shortage of funds is reaching a critical stage for rural schools and schools-based programs in urban areas.

3. That the government consider making transportation infrastructure a top priority for capital spending now and in the future.

   The Committee thinks it is essential to have a quality, integrated transportation network to serve as the backbone for the economic development of all regions of the province and to realize the full potential of the province's natural resources.

4. Finally, another fine-tuning adjustment the government could consider making is to raise the current income threshold for the child care subsidy.

   The Committee thinks there is a strong case for assisting parents who qualify as the working poor with their child care costs. We are concerned that the recent reduction in the income threshold can act as a disincentive to keeping a job, or to securing paid employment, for a significant number of people.

APPENDIX 1 – SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

June 26, 2002	Victoria	Organization
July 18, 2002	Victoria	Planning Session
September 13, 2002	Vancouver	Briefings
September 19, 2002	Victoria	Public Hearing
September 20, 2002	Campbell River	Public Hearing
September 23, 2002	Vancouver	Public Hearing
September 24, 2002	North Vancouver	Public Hearing
October 2, 2002	Kelowna	Public Hearing
October 2, 2002	Kamloops	Public Hearing
October 3, 2002	Kimberley	Public Hearing
October 3, 2002	Nelson	Public Hearing
October 15, 2002	Abbotsford	Public Hearing
October 15, 2002	Richmond	Public Hearing
October 16, 2002	Prince George	Public Hearing
October 16, 2002	Fort St. John	Public Hearing
October 17, 2002	Smithers	Public Hearing
October 23, 2002	Victoria	Deliberations
October 30, 2002	Victoria	Deliberations
November 6, 2002	Victoria	Deliberations

APPENDIX 2 – ORGANIZATIONS TAKING PART IN THE 2003 BUDGET CONSULTATION PROCESS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT		POPULATION
Municipalities	City of Dawson Creek (Mayor Wayne Dahlen)	11,789
	City of Fort St. John (Mayor Steve Thorlakson)	17,129
	City of Nelson (Mayor Gary Exner)	9,853
	City of North Vancouver (Terry Christie, Director of Finance)	45,330
	City of Prince George (Mayor Colin Kinsley)	81,506
	Town of Smithers (Mayor Brian Northup)	6,145
	Village of Burns Lake (Mayor Paul H. Jean)	1,895
	Village of Telkwa (Mayor Sharon Hartwell)	1,426
	District of Houston (Mayor Tom Euverman)	4,173
	District of Port Hardy (Mayor Russ Hellberg)	5,283
	District of Tumbler Ridge (Mayor Clay Iles)	2,326
Regional districts	Mount Waddington (Chair Bill Shephard)	15,154
POLITICAL PARTIES		**MEMBERSHIP**
Provincial	Green Party of BC	3,000
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS		**MEMBERSHIP**
	Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce	800 businesses
	Aquila Networks Canada Ltd.	400 employees
	Automobile Dealers Association of Prince George	n/a
	BC Agriculture Council	10,000
	BC and Yukon Chamber of Mines	2,400
	BC Automobile Dealers Association	350 dealers
	BC Chamber of Commerce	27,000 businesses
	BC Construction Association	1,700 contractors
	BC Fruit Growers' Association	641
	BC Professional Firefighters Association	3,200
	BC Real Estate Association	12 boards
	BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association	10,000 operators
	BC Salmon Farmers Association	60 companies
	BC Sports Property Association	8 member org's
	BC Technology Industries Association	460 firms
	BC Trucking Association	n/a
	BC Wharf Operators' Association	n/a
	BC Wine Institute	53 wineries
	BC3P Consulting	n/a
	Boliden-Westmin Canada Ltd., Myra Falls Operation	3,700 employees
	Brown's Bay Packing Co. Ltd	200 employees
	Business Council of BC	175 firms
	Canada West Ski Areas Association	300 businesses
	Canadian Bankers Association (26,835 employees in BC)	
	Canadian Federation of Independent Business	10,000 mbrs (BC)
	Canadian Home Builders' Association	6,000 firms
	Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association Inc.	9,700 agents (BC)
	Canadian Wood Council – Wood Works!	14 member org's

	Cariboo Mining Association	n/a
	Certified General Accountants Association of BC	8,000 CGAs
	Craft Brewers Association of BC	10 breweries
	Cranbrook and District Chamber of Commerce	450 members
	Discovery Capital Corp.	N/a
	Dynamic Engineering	n/a
	EEC Industries Ltd.	72 employees
	Federation of BC Woodlot Associations	28 member assoc's
	Fernie Chamber of Commerce	270 businesses
	Fire Chiefs Association of BC	n/a
	Fording Coal Ltd.	n/a
	Fort St. John and District Chamber of Commerce	n/a
	Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce	500 members
	Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce	1600 businesses
	Huxham & Co. Chartered Accountants	25 employees
	Independent Contractors and Businesses Association of BC	8,300
	Institute of Chartered Accountants of BC	8,500 CAs
	Insurance Bureau of Canada	120 companies
	Interior Value-Added Wood Association	30 companies
	International Forest Products Ltd.	3,500 employees
	International Selkirk Loop	300 collaborating businesses
	Kamloops Chamber of Commerce	600 businesses
	Kelowna Chamber of Commerce	1,400
	Legend Coronet Realty Ltd.	n/a
	Lignum Ltd.	500 employees
	LogicLynx Technologies Inc.	n/a
	Mike Wiegele Helicopter Skiing	n/a
	Mining Association of BC	n/a
	Myra Systems Corp.	40 employees
	National Farmers' Union	n/a
	Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce	350 members
	North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce	n/a
	Northern B.C. Construction Association	300 firms
	Northern Society of Oilfield Contractors and Service Firms	100 firms
	Novus Insurance	n/a
	Okanagan Science & Technology Council	n/a
	Okanagan Shuswap Manufacturers' Association	2000
	Okanagan Spring Brewery	175 employees (BC)
	Overland Freight Lines Ltd.	200 employees
	Prince George Chamber of Commerce	1000 businesses
	Pro-Tech Resources Ltd.	30 employees + 60 part-time
	Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association of BC	130 dealers
	Resorts of the Canadian Rockies Inc.	n/a
	Retail BC	3,500 members
	Retail Council of Canada	9,000 members
	Royal Caribbean International – Celebrity Cruises	6 ships
	Sander Wrixon Downie, Chartered Accountants	n/a
	Shaw Communications Inc.	2,700 employees

	Urban Development Institute – Pacific Region (and Kelowna Chapter)	400 firms
	Vancouver Board of Trade	4,300 firms
	Vancouver City Savings Credit Union, Abbotsford Community Branch	n/a
	Vancouver Island Advanced Technology Centre (VIATeC)	650 members
	Victoria Chinese Commerce Association	n/a
	Victoria Real Estate Board	n/a
	WCG International Consultants Ltd.	130 employees
	Western Brewers Association	6 brewers
	Western Canada Bed & Breakfast Innkeepers Association	2,500 operators (BC)
	Western Concrete Products	n/a
	Western Industrial Clay Products Ltd.	n/a
	Westpoint Multimedia	n/a
	Weyerhaeuser Co. Ltd.	5,000 employees
	Woman's Place Health and Fitness Inc.	36 employees
Other	Campbell River Economic Development Corporation	n/a
	Cranbrook Development Authority	n/a
	Island North Film Commission	8 locations
	Prince George Development Corporation	n/a
	Prince Rupert Economic Development Commission	n/a
	Venture Kamloops	n/a
LABOUR UNIONS		**MEMBERSHIP**
	BC Federation of Labour	475,000
	BC Government & Service Employees' Union	62,000
	BC Teachers' Federation	45,000
	Canadian Union of Public Employees – BC Division (and CUPE Local 3742)	65,000 (BC)
	Kitimat-Terrace and District Labour Council	5,500
	Peace River North Teachers' Association	n/a
	Prince George District Teachers' Association	1,000
	Richmond Teachers' Association	n/a
	Union of BC Performers	n/a
EDUCATION SECTOR (K-12)		**STUDENTS**
School Districts	Comox Valley School District	9,791
	New Westminster School District	6,038
	Peace River North School District	6,002
	Saanich School District	9,018
	Sooke School District	9,387
Schools	Bamfield Community School Association	32
	Blueberry Creek Community School Council	36
	Cedar School and Community Enhancement Society	519
	Craigflower Elementary School	210
	Denman Island Community Education Society	69
	Georgia Avenue Community School Staff Committee	462
	James Bay Community School Society	269

	John Maclure Community School Society	323
	Redford Community School	152
	Spectrum Community School Association	730
Parent Advisory Councils	Bamfield Community School Parent Advisory Council	72
	BC Parent Voices	700+ concerned parents
	Burnside Community School Parent Advisory Council	165
	David Livingstone Elementary School Parent's Advisory Council	349
	Hampton Community School Parent Advisory Council	343
	Harwin Community School Parent Advisory Council	166
	James Bay Community School Parent Advisory Council	269
	John Maclure Community School Parent Advisory Council	323
	John Robson School Parent Advisory Council	420
	L'Ecole Quadra Parent Advisory Council	402
	Lord Kelvin Community School Parent Advisory Council	480
	Lord Strathcona Elementary School Parent Advisory Council	568
	Lord Tweedsmuir Community School Parent Advisory Council	490
	Roberts Creek Community School Parent Advisory Council	344
	Robson Community School Parent Advisory Council	196
	Save Our Schools	n/a
	Tyee Elementary Montessori School Parent Advisory Council	200
	Vancouver Inner City Parents Group	23 schools
	Victoria West Community School Parent Advisory Council	280
EDUCATION SECTOR (POST-SECONDARY)		**STUDENTS**
Colleges and universities	Capilano College	7,200
	College of New Caledonia	n/a
	Okanagan University College	n/a
	Selkirk College	n/a
	University College of the Cariboo	n/a
	University of BC	32,450 (FTEs)
	University of Victoria	14,500 (FTEs)
	University Presidents' Council of BC	5 universities
Faculty Associations	Capilano College Faculty Association	509
	College Institute Educators' Association of BC	7,000
	College of the Rockies Faculty Association	150
	Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC	3,600
	University College of the Cariboo Faculty Association	500
Student Societies	Camosun College Students' Society	7,800
	Canadian Federation of Students	125,000 (BC)
	College of New Caledonia Students' Association	n/a
	University of BC Alumni Association	146,000
	University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society	2200
	University of Victoria Students' Society	15,000

HEALTH SECTOR		MEMBERSHIP
	Brain Injury Associations of BC	42 regional assoc's
	BC Association of Optometrists	345
	BC Cancer Foundation	n/a
	Castlegar and District Health Watch	400 members
	Central Okanagan Brain Injury Society	n/a
	College of Pharmacists of BC	n/a
	Genome BC	n/a
	Northern Medical Society of BC	n/a
COMMUNITY/VOLUNTEER GROUPS		
	Affordable Housing Task Force, City of Richmond	n/a
	Bulkley Valley Communities Coalition	n/a
	Campbell River Community Action Network	n/a
	Canadian Taxpayers Federation, BC Division	60,000
	Child and Youth Committee of the Boundary Communities	n/a
	Child and Family Counselling Association	n/a
	Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC	n/a
	Communities Solidarity Coalition	18 organizations
	Compensation and Accountability to Soaked Homeowners Society	n/a
	Concerned Citizens of the North Peace	n/a
	Concerned Parents of Medically Fragile Children with Special Needs	n/a
	Council of Canadians – Kelowna chapter	n/a
	First Call, BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition	n/a
	Harewood Neighborhood Association	n/a
	Matsqui-Sumas-Abbotsford Museum Society	n/a
	North Peace Seniors Housing Society	n/a
	North Westside Fire/Rescue	n/a
	Parents for Child Care Steering Committee	n/a
	Save Our Services Committee, Community Action Network	n/a
	Smithers Social Planning Council	n/a
	Social Planning and Research Council of BC	13,000 members
	Stoney Creek Community Council	n/a
	Touchstone Family Association – Richmond	n/a
	Valhalla Wilderness Society	n/a
	West Kootenay Family & Childcare Services Society	n/a
	Youthquest! Lesbian and Gay Youth Society of BC	2000 drop in hours

APPENDIX 3 – WITNESS LIST

	Submission No.	Witness Information
Karen Abramsen, Council of Canadians (Kelowna Chapter)	FGS-Sub-66	02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Kim Adamson, West Kootenay Family & Childcare Services Society		03-Oct-02 (Nelson)
John D. Addison	FGS-Sub-231	
Basil Alexander, University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society	FGS-Sub-15	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Darcy Alexander, Canada West Ski Areas Association	FGS-Sub-68	02-Oct-02 (Kamloops)
Don Allan, Prince Rupert Economic Development Commission	FGS-Sub-130	17-Oct-02 (Smithers)
Andrew Allin, Okanagan Science & Technology Council	FGS-Sub-168	
Roy Almas		03-Oct-02 (Kimberley)
Carol Anderson, Parents for Child Care Steering Committee	FGS-Sub-156	
Dileep Athaide, College Institute Educators' Association of B.C.	FGS-Sub-17	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Don Avison, University Presidents' Council	FGS-Sub-33	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Peter B. Aylen, Western Industrial Clay Products Ltd.	FGS-Sub-72	02-Oct-02 (Kamloops)
Perry Bahniwal	FGS-Sub-199	
Tim Baillie, British Columbia Professional Firefighters +Association		15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)
Naveen Bains, BC3P Consulting		19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Amar Bajwa		15-Oct-02 (Richmond)
Pawan Bajwa		15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)
Fred Banham, District of Tumbler Ridge	FGS-Sub-127	16-Oct-02 (Fort St. John)
Dr. Roger Barnsley, University College of the Cariboo	FGS-Sub-71	02-Oct-02 (Kamloops)
Randy Bartsch		15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)
Bill Baxter, Craft Brewers Association of British Columbia	FGS-Sub-14	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
David H. Bazowski, Boliden-Westmin (Canada) Ltd., Myra Falls Operations	FGS-Sub-24	20-Sep-02 (Campbell River)
Lynda Behenna, Hampton Community School Parent Advisory Council	FGS-Sub-213	
Dan Berkshire	FGS-Sub-23	20-Sep-02 (Campbell River)
Dr. Katy Bindon, Okanagan University College	FGS-Sub-58	02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Jeff Black, Vancouver Board of Trade	FGS-Sub-35	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Peter Blundell, Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce	FGS-Sub-225	02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
John Boucher		03-Oct-02 (Kimberley)
Victor Bowman		16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
Mike Bradshaw, Aquila Networks Canada Ltd.	FGS-Sub-56	02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Janelle Breese Biagioni, Brain Injury Associations of B.C.	FGS-Sub-146	
Peter Brenneman, Urban Development Institute (Kelowna Chapter)		02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Cindy Brunel, Fording Coal Ltd.	FGS-Sub-83	03-Oct-02 (Kimberley)
Allan Buch, EEC Industries Ltd.		24-Sep-02 (North Vancouver)

Keith Bullough, B.C. Salmon Farmers Association	FGS-Sub-26	20-Sep-02 (Campbell River)
Jacquie Burden		19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Clive Burge, Concerned Parents of Medically Fragile Children with Special Needs	FGS-Sub-187	
David Burnie		15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)
David E. Burns, Child and Family Counselling Association	FGS-Sub-176	
Susan Burns	FGS-Sub-145	
Ken Burt, Okanagan University College	FGS-Sub-58	02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Brian Butters, Novus Insurance		23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Len Bykowski, British Columbia Wine Institute	FGS-Sub-64	02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Lorne Calder, Prince George Chamber of Commerce	FGS-Sub-112	16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
Shane Calder, Communities Solidarity Coalition	FGS-Sub-152	
Don Cameron	FGS-Sub-70	02-Oct-02 (Kamloops)
Alan B. Campbell	FGS-Sub-65	02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Heather Campbell, Harewood Neighbourhood Association	FGS-Sub-172	
Mac Campbell		03-Oct-02 (Kimberley)
Vivienne Candy	FGS-Sub-110	16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
Adriane Carr, Green Party of British Columbia	FGS-Sub-204	
Brian Carroll	FGS-Sub-76	02-Oct-02 (Kamloops)
Cindy Carson, First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition	FGS-Sub-158	
Wayne Carson, North Westside Fire/Rescue	FGS-Sub-61	02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Dianne Carter, Cariboo Mining Association	FGS-Sub-116	16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
Prof. Jamie Cassels, University of Victoria	FGS-Sub-4	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Monika Chappell, Youthquest ! Lesbian and Gay Youth Society of British Columbia	FGS-Sub-214	
Robin Cherbo, Save Our Services Committee, Community Action Network	FGS-Sub-89	03-Oct-02 (Nelson)
Rob Chipman, Legend Coronet Realty Ltd.		23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Terry Christie, City of North Vancouver		24-Sep-02 (North Vancouver)
Councillor Jennifer Clarke	FGS-Sub-36	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Laurene Clark, Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce	FGS-Sub-7	
Paul Clausen, North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce	FGS-Sub-48	24-Sep-02 (North Vancouver)
Robert Clift, Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia	FGS-Sub-38	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Richard M. Coe, Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia	FGS-Sub-38	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Andy Cohen, Resorts of the Canadian Rockies Inc.	FGS-Sub-80	03-Oct-02 (Kimberley)
Mark Collins, Kitimat-Terrace and District Labour Council		17-Oct-02 (Smithers)
Kelly Contant, John Maclure Community School Society	FGS-Sub-160	
Lorisha Cook, Camosun College Students' Society		19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Bill Cooke, VIATeC	FGS-Sub-9	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Cathy Corrigan, Canadian Union of Public Employees - BC Division	FGS-Sub-108	15-Oct-02 (Richmond)
M-J Cousins, Venture Kamloops	FGS-Sub-67	02-Oct-02 (Kamloops)
John Cowperthwaite, Institute of Chartered Accountants of	FGS-Sub-226	24-Sep-02 (North Vancouver)

British Columbia		
John Crawford	FGS-Sub-106	15-Oct-02 (Richmond)
Michael Crawford	FGS-Sub-224	02-Oct-02 (Kamloops)
Hugh Creighton	FGS-Sub-143	
Lyall W. Creighton, Dynamic Engineering	FGS-Sub-141	
Joan Crisp, Lord Tweedsmuir Community School Parent Advisory Council	FGS-Sub-174	
Brad Cronquist, Kelowna Chamber of Commerce	FGS-Sub-57	02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Cathy Cross, Redford Community School	FGS-Sub-232	
Nathan Cullen, Bulkley Valley Communities Coalition; Smithers Social Planning Council		17-Oct-02 (Smithers)
Jim Culp	FGS-Sub-192	
Anthony Czernicki	FGS-Sub-140	
Mayor Wayne Dahlen, City of Dawson Creek	FGS-Sub-123	16-Oct-02 (Fort St. John)
Dean Daly, Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Associations	FGS-Sub-133	17-Oct-02 (Smithers)
Mark R. Daniels, Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association Inc.	FGS-Sub-217	
Rex Davidson, Western Canada Bed & Breakfast Innkeepers Association	FGS-Sub-162	
Greg D'Avignon, Western Brewers Association	FGS-Sub-103	15-Oct-02 (Richmond)
Marko Dekovic, Western Brewers Association	FGS-Sub-103	15-Oct-02 (Richmond)
Beth Dennahower, Fernie Chamber of Commerce		03-Oct-02 (Kimberley)
Mark Dickie	FGS-Sub-117	16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
Noreen Dodgson, Woman's Place Health and Fitness Inc.	FGS-Sub-63	02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Theresa Douglas	FGS-Sub-159	
Brenda Dunbar, Cariboo Mining Association	FGS-Sub-116	16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
Charleen Dunn, Vancouver City Savings Credit Union, Abbotsford Community Branch	FGS-Sub-185	
Lorne D. R. Dyke	FGS-Sub-151	
William Ebert	FGS-Sub-128	16-Oct-02 (Fort St. John)
Casey Edge, Canadian Home Builders' Association - Victoria	FGS-Sub-2	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Jim Edgson, North Westside Fire/Rescue	FGS-Sub-61	02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Brian Edmison	FGS-Sub-131	17-Oct-02 (Smithers)
Maureen Enser, Urban Development Institute - Pacific Region	FGS-Sub-50	24-Sep-02 (North Vancouver)
David Erickson, Cariboo Mining Association	FGS-Sub-116	16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
Martin Ertl, University of British Columbia Alumni Association	FGS-Sub-223	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Brad Eshleman, British Columbia Wharf Operators' Association	FGS-Sub-46	24-Sep-02 (North Vancouver)
Mayor Tom Euverman, District of Houston	FGS-Sub-129	17-Oct-02 (Smithers)
Catherine Evans, Save Our Schools (S.O.S.) – Vancouver	FGS-Sub-208	
Kevin Evans, Retail Council of Canada	FGS-Sub-34	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Simon Evans, British Columbia Restaurant and Foodservices Association		15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)
Peter Ewart		16-Oct-02 (Prince George)

Chris Ewasiuk, Shaw Communications Inc.	FGS-Sub-19	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Mayor Gary Exner, City of Nelson	FGS-Sub-88	03-Oct-02 (Nelson)
Melanie Fahlman-Reid, Capilano College Faculty Association	FGS-Sub-49	24-Sep-02 (North Vancouver)
Bob Fedderly, Northern Society of Oilfield Contractors and Service Firms		16-Oct-02 (Fort St. John)
Ian Ferguson, WCG International Consultants Ltd.	FGS-Sub-1	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Cicera Ferreira		23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Jock Finlayson, Business Council of British Columbia	FGS-Sub-30	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Barry Fisher, Craft Brewers Association of British Columbia	FGS-Sub-14	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Rick Foulger	FGS-Sub-147	
John P. Fox, Royal Caribbean International - Celebrity Cruises	FGS-Sub-139	
Ian Fraser, Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce	FGS-Sub-86	03-Oct-02 (Nelson)
Dr. Thomas B. Friedman, University College of the Cariboo Faculty Association	FGS-Sub-69	02-Oct-02 (Kamloops)
Wilf Fuerst		17-Oct-02 (Smithers)
Karon Fuson	FGS-Sub-44	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Paul Galinski, Island North Film Commission	FGS-Sub-22	20-Sep-02 (Campbell River)
Penny Gambell, British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association	FGS-Sub-109	15-Oct-02 (Richmond)
Chief Len Garis, Fire Chief's Association of British Columbia	FGS-Sub-222	15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)
Katia Gauvin, James Bay Community School Parent Advisory Council	FGS-Sub-157	
Brian Gentles, Fort Motors Ltd.: BC Automobile Dealers Association	FGS-Sub-122	16-Oct-02 (Fort St. John)
Dr. John Gentles, British Columbia Association of Optometrists	FGS-Sub-121	16-Oct-02 (Fort St. John)
Michael Geoghegan	FGS-Sub-94	15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)
Robb Gibbs, John Robson Community School Parent Advisory Council	FGS-Sub-205	
G. E. Giesbrecht	FGS-Sub-183	
Patrick Giesbrecht		15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)
Jonas Gifford, University of Victoria Students' Society	FGS-Sub-16	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Brian Giles	FGS-Sub-28	20-Sep-02 (Campbell River)
Baldev Gill, Union of B.C. Performers	FGS-Sub-196	
Guparit Gill		19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Nab Gill, Westpoint Multimedia		19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Erika Godfrey, Craigflower Elementary School	FGS-Sub-230	
Dianne Goldberg, BC Parent Voices (representing 700+ concerned parents)	FGS-Sub-193	
Michael Goldberg, Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC)	FGS-Sub-194	
Shelagh W. Gourlay, Cedar School and Community Enhancement Society	FGS-Sub-175	
Councillor Dave Gracey		02-Oct-02 (Kamloops)
Carman Graf		17-Oct-02 (Smithers)
Rebecca Grant, Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce	FGS-Sub-7	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Darcy Gregory, Cranbrook & District Chamber of	FGS-Sub-81	03-Oct-02 (Kimberley)

Commerce		
Sharon Gregson, Coalition of Child Care Advocates of B.C.	FGS-Sub-32	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Paul Griffin, Canadian Bankers Association	FGS-Sub-216	
Dennis Groves, Coast Mountain Chev Olds Ltd.; British Columbia Automobile Dealers Association	FGS-Sub-135	17-Oct-02 (Smithers)
George Hamilton, BC Agriculture Council	FGS-Sub-101	15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)
Heather Hannaford, School District 60 – Peace River North		16-Oct-02 (Fort St. John)
Marilyn Hannah, CUPE Local 3742		16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
Justin Harbord, Novus Insurance		23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Fiona Harris, Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce, Retail and Services Committee	FGS-Sub-99	15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)
Mayor Sharon Hartwell, Village of Telkwa	FGS-Sub-132	17-Oct-02 (Smithers)
Michele Hayes	FGS-Sub-197	
Mayor Russ Hellberg, District of Port Hardy		20-Sep-02 (Campbell River)
Anne Hetherington		17-Oct-02 (Smithers)
George Heyman, B.C. Government & Service Employees' Union	FGS-Sub-150	
Lee Hill, Prince George Chamber of Commerce	FGS-Sub-112	16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
Philip Hochstein, Independent Contractors and Businesses Association of British Columbia		02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Dave Holmberg		15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)
Patty Holmes, Lord Tweedsmuir Community School Parent Advisory Council	FGS-Sub-174	
Chris Holt, LogicLynx Technologies Inc.	FGS-Sub-12	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Louise Hoogewerf, Tyee Elementary Montessori School Parent Advisory Council	FGS-Sub-202	
Rae Hopkins, Bamfield Community School Association	FGS-Sub-170	
Leah Hough, Camosun College Students' Society		19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
George Hunter, British Columbia Technology Industries Association		23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Paul Hunter		23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Darlene Hyde, British Columbia Automobile Dealers Association	FGS-Sub-104	15-Oct-02 (Richmond)
Mayor Clay Iles, District of Tumbler Ridge	FGS-Sub-127	16-Oct-02 (Fort St. John)
Dawn Isaac, John Maclure Community School Parent Advisory Council	FGS-Sub-180	
Sameer Ismail		24-Sep-02 (North Vancouver)
Harry Jaako, Discovery Capital Corp.	FGS-Sub-45	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Robert Jackson, Castlegar & District Health Watch	FGS-Sub-90	03-Oct-02 (Nelson)
Chuck Jean	FGS-Sub-148	
Mayor Paul H. Jean, Village of Burns Lake	FGS-Sub-137	17-Oct-02 (Smithers)
Claus Jensen, Overland Freight Lines Ltd.	FGS-Sub-52	24-Sep-02 (North Vancouver)
Amaljeet Jhand, Concerned Citizens of North Peace		16-Oct-02 (Fort St. John)
Mark Jiles, B.C. Sports Property Association		15-Oct-02 (Richmond)
Ron Johnston	FGS-Sub-27	20-Sep-02 (Campbell River)
Kim Kaldal, Burnside Community School Parent Advisory Council	FGS-Sub-229	

Garry Kalinski, International Selkirk Loop	FGS-Sub-87	03-Oct-02 (Nelson)
Fred and Rita Katzel	FGS-Sub-155	
Dr. Bert Kelly, Northern Medical Society of BC		16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
Irvin Kew, Victoria Chinese Commerce Association	FGS-Sub-11	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
P. Killman	FGS-Sub-149	
Mayor Colin Kinsley, City of Prince George	FGS-Sub-111	16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
Joanne Kitt		03-Oct-02 (Kimberley)
Al Klassen, Richmond Teachers' Association	FGS-Sub-215	
Rick Knudson, Okanagan Spring Brewery	FGS-Sub-105	15-Oct-02 (Richmond)
Pat Koski, Fording Coal Ltd.	FGS-Sub-83	03-Oct-02 (Kimberley)
Pete Kossey		17-Oct-02 (Smithers)
Jim Krauss	FGS-Sub-120	16-Oct-02 (Fort St. John)
Hank Kroeker, Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce, Agriculture Committee	FGS-Sub-98	15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)
Larry Kuehn, British Columbia Teachers' Federation	FGS-Sub-107	15-Oct-02 (Richmond)
Terry Lalari		19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Jerry Lampert, Business Council of British Columbia	FGS-Sub-30	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Paul R. Landry, British Columbia Trucking Association	FGS-Sub-227	
Jill Lane, School District 71 – Comox Valley	FGS-Sub-169	
Jean Leahy, National Farmers' Union	FGS-Sub-124	16-Oct-02 (Fort St. John)
Ken Leboe, Automobile Dealers Association of Prince George; British Columbia Automobile Dealers Association	FGS-Sub-113	16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
Angela Lee	FGS-Sub-177	
Dr. Greg Lee, Capilano College	FGS-Sub-47	24-Sep-02 (North Vancouver)
Les Lengyel		20-Sep-02 (Campbell River)
Margaret Little, Peace River North Teachers' Association	FGS-Sub-125	16-Oct-02 (Fort St. John)
Gary Livingstone, Mining Association of British Columbia	FGS-Sub-29	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
David Lo	FGS-Sub-177	
Roger Lockwood, Western Concrete Products	FGS-Sub-188	
Cheryl Longridge, Concerned Parents of Medically Fragile Children with Special Needs	FGS-Sub-187	
Helesia Luke, Tyee Elementary Montessori School Parent Advisory Council	FGS-Sub-202	
Miles Lunn	FGS-Sub-42	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Marilyn Luscombe, Selkirk College	FGS-Sub-85	03-Oct-02 (Nelson)
Faye Lutz, Georgia Avenue Community School, Staff Committee	FGS-Sub-190	
Linda Lytle, College of Pharmacists of British Columbia	FGS-Sub-40	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Allana MacAulay, Concerned Citizens of North Peace		16-Oct-02 (Fort St. John)
Mary MacAulay, Lord Strathcona Elementary School Parent Advisory Committee	FGS-Sub-181	
Bethia Macey, Roberts Creek Community School Parent Advisory Council	FGS-Sub-201	
Karen MacKay, Prince George District Teachers' Association	FGS-Sub-210	
Norm MacLeod, North Westside Fire/Rescue	FGS-Sub-61	02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Carmen Maretic, Compensation and Accountability to	FGS-Sub-92	15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)

Soaked Homeowners Society		
Christine Marshall, Lord Kelvin Community School Parent Advisory Council	FGS-Sub-186	
Patrick Marshall, Campbell River Economic Development Corporation		20-Sep-02 (Campbell River)
Thomas Marshall		15-Oct-02 (Richmond)
Lisa Martinson, Harwin Community School Parent Advisory Council	FGS-Sub-221	
Janet Marwick, Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association of British Columbia	FGS-Sub-100	15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)
Jaime Matten, Canadian Federation of Students	FGS-Sub-41	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Michael McCoy, Touchstone Family Association - Richmond	FGS-Sub-51	24-Sep-02 (North Vancouver)
Colleen McCrory, Green Party of BC		03-Oct-02 (Nelson)
Summer McFadyen, Canadian Federation of Students	FGS-Sub-41	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Dr. Robert McGuinness, Northern Medical Society of BC		16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
Donald McInnes, BC and Yukon Chamber of Mines		24-Sep-02 (North Vancouver)
Bob McKay		03-Oct-02 (Nelson)
Velma McKay, College of the Rockies Faculty Association	FGS-Sub-79	03-Oct-02 (Kimberley)
Al McNair, Kamloops Chamber of Commerce	FGS-Sub-78	02-Oct-02 (Kamloops)
Mary McNeil, British Columbia Cancer Foundation	FGS-Sub-53	24-Sep-02 (North Vancouver)
Rob Mealey, College of New Caledonia Students' Association	FGS-Sub-115	16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
Michael B. Mehr	FGS-Sub-163	
Joan Miller, Island North Film Commission	FGS-Sub-22	20-Sep-02 (Campbell River)
Ruth Miller	FGS-Sub-182	
Kevin Millership		02-Oct-02 (Kamloops)
Robert Mitten	FGS-Sub-154	
Robin Modesto, International Forest Products Ltd.	FGS-Sub-25	20-Sep-02 (Campbell River)
Tammy Monsell, Fernie Chamber of Commerce		03-Oct-02 (Kimberley)
Rita Montgomery	FGS-Sub-207	
Roseanne Moran, College Institute Educators' Association of B.C.	FGS-Sub-17	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Leah Muirhead		23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Jack Murphy, Myra Systems Corp.	FGS-Sub-5	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Veronica Murphy, College of New Caledonia Students' Association	FGS-Sub-115	16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
John Murray		03-Oct-02 (Nelson)
Amed Naqvi	FGS-Sub-138	03-Oct-02 (Nelson)
Patricia Nichol, Spectrum Community School Association	FGS-Sub-212	
Ray Nickel, BC Agriculture Council	FGS-Sub-101	15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)
Mayor Brian Northup, Town of Smithers	FGS-Sub-134	17-Oct-02 (Smithers)
Jeff Nugent, Canadian Federation of Independent Business	FGS-Sub-8	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Pastor Alvin Oberhammer, North Peace Seniors Housing Society		16-Oct-02 (Fort St. John)
Gerry Offet, Prince George Development Corporation		16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
Cindy Oliver, College Institute Educators' Association of B.C.	FGS-Sub-17	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)

Roger Oliver, International Selkirk Loop	FGS-Sub-87	03-Oct-02 (Nelson)
Lindsay Olson, Insurance Bureau of Canada	FGS-Sub-10	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Kathleen A. O'Malley, Child and Youth Committee of the Boundary Communities	FGS-Sub-195	
Barry O'Neill, Canadian Union of Public Employees - BC Division	FGS-Sub-108	15-Oct-02 (Richmond)
Brenda Osmond, College of Pharmacists of British Columbia	FGS-Sub-40	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
John Ostaf	FGS-Sub-106	15-Oct-02 (Richmond)
Gillian Ovens	FGS-Sub-203	
Denis Painchaud, Aquila Networks Canada Ltd.	FGS-Sub-56	02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Agnes Papke, University of British Columbia Alumni Association	FGS-Sub-223	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Helen Parker, School District 63 – Saanich	FGS-Sub-13	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Scott Payne, University of Victoria Students' Society	FGS-Sub-16	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Paul Perkins, Weyerhaeuser Co. Ltd.	FGS-Sub-31	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Warren Perks, British Columbia Construction Association	FGS-Sub-18	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Sharon Petten, Robson Community School Parent Advisory Council	FGS-Sub-218	
Bradley A. Piercy, Huxham & Co. Chartered Accountants	FGS-Sub-55	20-Sep-02 (Campbell River)
Ken Pike, Brown's Bay Packing Co. Ltd.		20-Sep-02 (Campbell River)
Conrad Pinette, Lignum Ltd.	FGS-Sub-43	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Dennis Pinvidic, LogicLynx Technologies Inc.	FGS-Sub-12	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Dorte Pittaway	FGS-Sub-178	
Brian Powell-Clendenning		24-Sep-02 (North Vancouver)
Barb Presseau	FGS-Sub-153	
Kim Priest, Bamfield Community School Parent Advisory Council	FGS-Sub-171	
Tom Prior		03-Oct-02 (Nelson)
Dennis Prouse, Insurance Bureau of Canada	FGS-Sub-10	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Dr. Jim Rae, WCG International Consultants Ltd.	FGS-Sub-1	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Al Raine	FGS-Sub-77	02-Oct-02 (Kamloops)
Doug Rankmore, Central Okanagan Brain Injury Society	FGS-Sub-144	
David Reay, Affordable Housing Task Force, City of Richmond		15-Oct-02 (Richmond)
Richard Rees, Institute of Chartered Accountants of British Columbia	FGS-Sub-226	24-Sep-02 (North Vancouver)
Gordon Reid, International Selkirk Loop	FGS-Sub-87	03-Oct-02 (Nelson)
Don Reimer, Denman Island Community Education Society	FGS-Sub-228	
Ted H. Renner	FGS-Sub-84	03-Oct-02 (Kimberley)
Darcy Rezac, Vancouver Board of Trade	FGS-Sub-35	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Michael Riis-Christianson, Village of Burns Lake	FGS-Sub-137	17-Oct-02 (Smithers)
Denise Riley, School District 62 – Sooke	FGS-Sub-198	
Jeanette Robertson	FGS-Sub-224	
Chris Roine	FGS-Sub-37	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Colleen Ross	FGS-Sub-21	20-Sep-02 (Campbell River)
Esmée Rothschild, L'Ecole Quadra Parent Advisory Council	FGS-Sub-219	

Glenn Rousseau, Interior Value Added Wood Association; Okanagan Shuswap Manufacturers' Association	FGS-Sub-62	02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Scott P. Rowsell, Pro-Tech Forest Resources Ltd.	FGS-Sub-136	17-Oct-02 (Smithers)
Brian Ruddell		16-Oct-02 (Fort St. John)
Gordon Ruth, Certified General Accountants Association of British Columbia		23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Garry Ryan, Save Our Services Committee, Community Action Network	FGS-Sub-89	03-Oct-02 (Nelson)
Nancy J. Ryan	FGS-Sub-189	
Suromitra Sanatina, Canadian Federation of Independent Business	FGS-Sub-8	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Ben Sander, CA, Sander Wrixon Downie, Chartered Accountants	FGS-Sub-126	16-Oct-02 (Fort St. John)
Armindo C. Santos	FGS-Sub-177	
Connie Sarrazin	FGS-Sub-20	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Doreen and Donald Savien	FGS-Sub-200	
Janis Sawley		03-Oct-02 (Kimberley)
Bruce Schmidt, Genome British Columbia	FGS-Sub-54	24-Sep-02 (North Vancouver)
Helen Secco, Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce	FGS-Sub-93	15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)
Al Sello, Vancouver Board of Trade	FGS-Sub-35	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Sherry Sethen, Prince George Chamber of Commerce	FGS-Sub-112	16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
Dr. Lal Sharma		02-Oct-02 (Kamloops)
John Sheehan, Cranbrook Development Authority	FGS-Sub-82	03-Oct-02 (Kimberley)
Bill Shephard, Regional District of Mount Waddington	FGS-Sub-142	
Anne Sherrod, Valhalla Wilderness Society	FGS-Sub-91	03-Oct-02 (Nelson)
Savik Sidhu		15-Oct-02 (Richmond)
Jim Sinclair, BC Federation of Labour		15-Oct-02 (Richmond)
Carrie Sjostrom, Campbell River Community Action Network		20-Sep-02 (Campbell River)
Carman J.M. Smith	FGS-Sub-75	02-Oct-02 (Kamloops)
Chris Smith, Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce, Transportation and Community Development Committee	FGS-Sub-95	15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)
Ken Smith, Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Committee	FGS-Sub-96	15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)
Kristi Smith, Stoney Creek Community Council	FGS-Sub-220	
Tim Spiegel, Canadian Wood Council - Wood Works!	FGS-Sub-59	02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Don Startin	FGS-Sub-191	
Don Startin, Communities Solidarity Coalition	FGS-Sub-152	
Mark Startup, Retail BC	FGS-Sub-34	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Dawn Steele, David Livingstone Elementary School Parent's Advisory Council	FGS-Sub-165	
Chris Steinbach		24-Sep-02 (North Vancouver)
Anne Marie Stewart		19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Tony Stewart, British Columbia Wine Institute	FGS-Sub-64	02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Todd Stone, University College of the Cariboo	FGS-Sub-71	02-Oct-02 (Kamloops)
Christine Stoneman, James Bay Community School Society	FGS-Sub-167	
Nettie Stupnikoff, Blueberry Creek Community School	FGS-Sub-164	

Council		
Susan Swanson	FGS-Sub-184	
Carol Tahsuda, Peace River North Teachers' Association	FGS-Sub-125	16-Oct-02 (Fort St. John)
Justin Tee		23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Merle Terlesky	FGS-Sub-74	02-Oct-02 (Kamloops)
Glenn Terrell, Victoria Real Estate Board	FGS-Sub-6	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Sarah Thomson, Victoria West Community School Parent Advisory Council	FGS-Sub-211	
Steve Thomson, BC Agriculture Council	FGS-Sub-101	15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)
Mayor Steve Thorlakson, City of Fort St. John	FGS-Sub-119	16-Oct-02 (Fort St. John)
Rosalind Thorn, Northern B.C. Construction Association	FGS-Sub-114	16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
Stephanie Tipple, Island North Film Commission	FGS-Sub-22	20-Sep-02 (Campbell River)
Kim Toombs, Communities Solidarity Coalition	FGS-Sub-152	
Mary Tracey, Canadian Wood Council - Wood Works!	FGS-Sub-59	02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Allan Trelford, Victoria Real Estate Board	FGS-Sub-6	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Allan Tupper, University of British Columbia	FGS-Sub-39	23-Sep-02 (Vancouver)
Nina Turner, Victoria West Community School Parent Advisory Council	FGS-Sub-211	
Tim Vasko, LogicLynx Technologies Inc.	FGS-Sub-12	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Grant Veale, Mike Wiegele Helicopter Skiing	FGS-Sub-73	02-Oct-02 (Kamloops)
Ken Veldman, Prince George Development Corporation		16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
Victor Vrsnik, Canadian Taxpayers Federation - BC Office	FGS-Sub-118	16-Oct-02 (Prince George)
Mary Ellen Walling, B.C. Salmon Farmers Association	FGS-Sub-26	20-Sep-02 (Campbell River)
A. Peter Wannop	FGS-Sub-60	02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Karen Watt, Kamloops Chamber of Commerce	FGS-Sub-78	02-Oct-02 (Kamloops)
Ken Webster, Urban Development Institute (Kelowna Chapter)		02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)
Pierre Welbedagt, John Maclure Community School Society	FGS-Sub-160	
Terry Weninger, College of New Caledonia	FGS-Sub-166	
Jason Wheeldon, Cranbrook & District Chamber of Commerce	FGS-Sub-81	03-Oct-02 (Kimberley)
Dennis Wilson, British Columbia Real Estate Association	FGS-Sub-6	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
John Winter, British Columbia Chamber of Commerce	FGS-Sub-102	15-Oct-02 (Richmond)
Andrew Wong	FGS-Sub-177	
Cynthia Wong, Vancouver Inner City Parents Group	FGS-Sub-173	
Cynthia and Albert Wong	FGS-Sub-206	
Thea Wood, Robson Community School Society	FGS-Sub-218	
Neil Worboys, British Columbia Teachers' Federation	FGS-Sub-107	15-Oct-02 (Richmond)
Dr. John B. Woudzia, School District 40 – New Westminster	FGS-Sub-209	
Lynne Wright, Matsqui-Sumas-Abbotsford Museum Society	FGS-Sub-161	
Barb Wutzke	FGS-Sub-3	19-Sep-02 (Victoria)
Andrew Wynn-Williams, British Columbia Chamber of Commerce	FGS-Sub-102	15-Oct-02 (Richmond)
Gus Yeoman, Fort St. John and District Chamber of Commerce		16-Oct-02 (Fort St. John)
Karen Young, Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce, Education	FGS-Sub-97	15-Oct-02 (Abbotsford)

Committee		
Mel Zeiler	FGS-Sub-179	
Seymour Zidle		02-Oct-02 (Kelowna)